

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8862

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 781

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY. DURING JANUARY 19 CALL BY EMBOFF, L.N. PETROV, COUNSELOR IN THE MFA'S SECOND AFRICAN DIVISION, STUCK TO THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE ON ANGOLA, BUT DID HINT THAT SAVIMBI COULD POSSIBLY PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION, PETROV DID LITTLE BUT REITERATE STANDARD SOVIET PUBLIC LINE ON ANGOLAN QUESTION. HE CLAIMED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES APPLIED ONLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS, REGRETTEED THAT THE OAU (BECAUSE OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE) HAD BEEN UNABLE TO PASS A PRO-MPLA RESOLUTION, AND SAID
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THAT A COALITION WAS UNREALISTIC. ON THE LATTER POINT, HOWEVER,

PETROV RESERVED MOST OF HIS FIRE FOR ROBERTO AND VAGUELY HINTED THAT SAVIMBI COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. PETROV'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE ANGOLANS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SORTING OUT THEIR AFFAIRS, AND OUTSIDE POWERS, "SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA," SHOULD ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE THIS PROCESS.
STOESSEL

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